
BATTLE OF FITZHUGH'S WOODS,

NEAR AUGUSTA, ARKANSAS,

APRIL 1, 1864.

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BATTLE OF FITZHUGH'S WOODS, NEAR AUGUSTA, ARK.—April 1, 1864.

Report of Col. Christopher C. Andrews, Third Minnesota Infantry, Commanding Expedition.

HEADQUARTERS POST OF LITTLE ROCK,

SATURDAY EVENING, April 2, 1864.

GENERAL: In compliance with General Orders, No. 169, War Department, Oct. 27, 1862, I have the honor to report the result of an engagement at Fitzhugh's woods, six miles above Augusta, on White river, with the forces under Brigadier General McRae. On Wednesday afternoon last, March 30th, at 4:30 P. M., I received orders from Brigadier General Kimball to proceed on an expedition up White river. At 7 o'clock that evening I left Little Rock with a detachment of the Third Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry (veterans), Maj. E. W. Foster commanding, consisting of Companies B, C, E, G, H, and I, numbering 186, and proceeded to Devall's Bluff by railroad. We reached there at 4:20 the next morning, and found the steamer Dove, Captain Erwin, in readiness to move. A detachment from the Eighth Missouri Cavalry at that post, numbering forty-five men, under command of Capt. L. I. Matthews, reported to me on the boat at 6:20, and we immediately put off up the river. The gunboat Covington proceeded with us, by the mutual wish of the captain of the transport and of Lient. G. P. Lord, commanding the gunboat. After getting some distance up the river we took the precaution to bring on board and detain any persons lurking about the shore whom we suspected would carry intelligence into the country of our approach; and in this way I gained more or less valuable information, and also the services of a good guide.

We arrived at Gregory's Landing, Jackson county, at dusk, and having learned that one of the camps of McRae's men was four miles back of that landing, on Straight lake, I ventured to move out there to surprise it. The evening was rainy and extremely dark, but my guides knew the road perfectly, and my patrols moved forward so carefully there could be no possibility of an ambush. Three miles from the river was a bayou (Cache), difficult even for cavalry to ford, but the detachment of cavalry crossed it without accident, and suddenly surrounded the farm-house near by and as quickly threw out pickets. The information received, however, was that the camp had been abandoned early that morning. The cavalry then recrossed the bayou, and we returned to the transport, arriving on board at 10 o'clock. I gave orders for my command to have breakfast by 5 o'clock next morning, and the transport moved on up to Augusta. At 5 o'clock, therefore, yesterday morning (April 1), we landed at Augusta, a small but pleasantly situated village, and immediately had it surrounded by pickets, and had citizens and colored men brought on board that I might ascertain the number and whereabouts of McRae's forces. I learned that for a few days past his forces had been concentrating, that two or three days previously they had moved toward Jacksonport, that they had returned, and that the principal camp was at Antony's, said to be seven miles distant on the Jacksonport road. I then ordered my small command to land, leaving a guard on board the transport, and proceeded up the Jacksonport road. It was about 6 o'clock when we moved from Augusta. We had scarcely got a mile and a half out of town when our ad-

vance guard encountered a small party of the enemy, and pursued and charged them two miles, and captured two prisoners. Coming then to the forks of two roads the cavalry waited for the infantry to come up. It was at this point that we met Rutherford's company, and drove it into the woods on a road leading to the right. We then continued the march on the Jacksonport road, keeping out for some distance flankers and patrols.

At the bayou, some six miles from Augusta, our advanced guard came upon a small party of mounted men, who, after one shot being fired at them, turned and fled. At the next farm-house we reached, we learned that General McRae was one of the party. This fact I discovered very soon, and immediately ordered the cavalry detachment to pursue at their utmost speed, which was done. It appeared that he turned off the Jacksonport road toward McCoy's, one of his places of resort, to which place Captain Matthews pursued him. He, however, escaped.

Beyond Fitzhugh's we came upon one of their camps, which appeared to have been suddenly abandoned, and where, also, we found and appropriated, as far as we needed, a wagon load of hams. We also gained some information at almost every farm-house concerning the movements and locality of McRae's forces. I had heard his forces estimated variously at from 500 to 1,500, many of them, however, being poorly armed; and I had learned at Augusta that he had from 400 to 600 men near Antony's. The farther, however, I advanced, the more his force in any one body appeared to diminish, and the less appeared to be the chance for a fair fight with them. After, therefore, reaching a point twelve miles above Augusta, and meeting no force, I determined to return to the transport.

After a rest, it being 12:30 o'clock, we started back. At 1:30 o'clock, as we passed the road leading to McCoy's, a party of men showed themselves in the road, and being, as I had reason to believe, a decoy to draw us into an ambuscade, I ordered that they should not be pursued. We arrived at Fitzhugh's, less than a mile from that road, and were resting when the enemy made his appearance from the direction of McCoy's, advancing in line in a field on our left, and commenced charging on us. I had a part of our infantry quickly moved against them, which checked them, and by a volley fire killed and dismounted a number of them. The same infantry force then charged on them, and, amid the loud shouts and cheers of our men, drove them back into the woods out of sight. I then increased our rearguard, resumed the march, and proceeded about two miles, when the enemy came upon us in much larger force, our first notice being his attack on our rearguard. The place can perhaps be best designated as Fitzhugh's woods, and was almost 500 yards north of a well-known bayou or swamp. On the east side of the road was a field of cultivated land, on which there was a thin body of dead timber. West of the road was heavy timber with more or less dead logs lying about, but not much underbrush.

It was immediately apparent that the enemy had collected all his forces and meditated our destruction. His lines having previously been deployed, moved up around us in good order, but shouting loudly, and seemed almost to encircle us. I plainly saw, and everyone in my command could see, that we were greatly outnumbered, but I had the most unfaltering confidence in the unflinching valor and superior soldiership of every officer and man of my small party, and I believed from the start we would come out victorious. Our line was immediately

deployed as skirmishers, the men cautioned to take advantage of every shelter and a strong company was held in reserve. The cavalry formed on the left and fought dismounted. The fighting commenced sharply, the enemy being within 200 yards of us, and the men on both sides uttering defiant shouts. Above all the clamor we could hear the loud exhortations of their chiefs urging on their men to a charge. They made an attempt, but were repulsed and charged on by us. The firing was the sharpest during the first half hour, and during this time my horse was shot under me. We could see, however, that every movement of the enemy was thwarted by the unerring fire of our sharpshooters. Still, we were aware that we were fighting experienced and daring men, Rutherford's men especially being well known as cool fighters and good marksmen. They fought dismounted.

The fight had lasted an hour when it was discovered that a part of the enemy's forces were moving around to our right at difficult range for us, with the evident purpose of intercepting our passage across the bayou. In order to defeat that purpose and to get a somewhat better position, and also to have the benefit of a well of water, which we were beginning to need, I determined to withdraw our line about 150 paces, where we could hold the bayou and also have the protection of a cluster of log buildings and some fences. The greater part of my force had withdrawn to this new position unperceived by the enemy. When he discovered that we had abandoned our first line, which we had stubbornly held during the hardest of the contest, he conjectured we were retreating, and rose up and came on with the utmost shouting and clamor. But our men, who were already in position calmly waiting their approach, poured forth a fire more damaging and deadly than they had yet suffered. From this moment they seemed to give up the fight. Yet leaders advanced, and, with language plainly heard by us, vainly endeavored to stimulate their men to a desperate attack. Two or three of their leaders were picked off by our men while making such brave endeavors. We held that position an hour and a half, during which time our men maintained a cool and effective skirmish fire.

The combat had now lasted two hours and a half, and the enemy was beaten. To guard, however, against any surprise at the bayou, the crossing being difficult and it appearing also that it had been the purpose of the enemy to do us an injury there, I caused a line of sharpshooters to be deployed, concealed on both flanks of the crossing of the bayou in the woods, to protect our crossing whenever we might choose to move. This was promptly attended to by Major Foster. Although the ford of the bayou is about 125 yards wide, and extremely difficult to cross in the vicinity of an enemy, we made the passage without any interference or obstacle.

We then moved on in our march to the transport, a distance of six miles, the road passing through woods, by cross-roads and open fields, where, if the enemy had dared, he might have chosen his position, knowing, as he well did, the country. But he did not venture near us again; and we proceeded into Augusta in perfect order, our colors flying, and the men singing, "Down with the Traitor;" and arriving in front of the town we halted and gave three cheers for the stars and stripes. We then moved aboard the transport and started on our return, our object having in the main been accomplished. My loss was, in the infantry, 8 killed, 19 wounded (1 mortally); in the cavalry, 1 killed and 1 (a recent recruit)

missing. All of the wounded except three will be fit for duty in a few days. I cannot accurately judge of the enemy's loss, but am confident it exceeds 100 in killed and wounded, including the loss he sustained in his first ineffectual charge. I also captured from him thirteen prisoners, including one commissioned officer and one sergeant. We also took a number of good horses and brought away several freedmen.

A few men were left as a guard on the transport, and some were used in guarding prisoners; so that the whole number of men I had engaged was only 180. The moral effect of this combat is greatly on our side, showing, as it does, that with a very small force we are able to defy the combined numbers of the enemy which has been left to hold sway in that fine region of country, and that he is liable to be struck from unexpected sources. The conduct of the officers and men of my command was eminently heroic and prudent. Their efficiency and skill were what I had reason to expect from accomplished and well-disciplined soldiers. Their emulous valor equaled the Spartan standard. The result of their hard-fought contest shows what a resource there is in courage and what power there is in discipline.

The place to which we marched is 168 miles from Little Rock, and we made the expedition and returned to this place and had resumed our ordinary duties here inside of three days.

I am obliged to the Quartermaster's Department for promptitude in furnishing transportation; also to the commanders of the gunboat and transport for their promptitude and assistance.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. C. ANDREWS,

Colonel, Third Minnesota Vol. Infy., Comdg. Expedition.

Brig. Gen. L. THOMAS,

Adjutant General, U. S. Army.

List of the Killed and Wounded in the Detachment of 160 Officers and Enlisted Men of the Third Minnesota Actually Engaged in the Battle of Fitzhugh's Woods, near Augusta, Ark., April 1, 1864:

FIELD AND STAFF—	Wounded:	Quartermaster Sergt. H. D. Pettibone.
COMPANY B—	Killed:	Privates Ole Hanson and William Shearier.
	Wounded:	First Sergt. Henry W. Durand, Sergt. Albert G. Hunt, Corp. Edward Freygang; Privates William F. Ingham and George Breuer.
COMPANY C—	Killed:	Private Henry W. Farnsworth.
	Wounded:	Corp. Lewis Kimball; Privates Orrin Case, James P. Chapin and Henry H. Wallace.
COMPANY E—	Killed:	First Sergt. Corydon D. Bevans (who had been appointed second lieutenant) and Private Clark D. Harding.
	Wounded:	Corp. Isaac Lauver and Private Albert G. Leach.
COMPANY G—	Wounded:	Private Albert R. Pierce.
	Mortally Wounded:	Andrew Bigham.
COMPANY H—	Killed:	Corp. George H. Peasley.
	Wounded:	Privates Rollin O. Crawford and John Eaton.
COMPANY I—	Killed:	Private Washington I. Smith.
	Wounded:	Privates Frank J. Markling, Andrew J. Clark and John Pope.
	Killed.....	7
	Wounded.....	19
	Mortally wounded.....	1
	Total	27

Report of Maj. Everett W. Foster, Third Minnesota Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD MINNESOTA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., April 3, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report the part which the detachment of the Third Minnesota Volunteers, under my command, took in the recent expedition and action up the White river, under command of Col. C. C. Andrews, Third Minnesota Volunteers. I received orders from Colonel Andrews at 4:30 P. M., March 30, to be in readiness to march with four days' rations at 6 o'clock that evening, and at 7 o'clock I marched my command, six companies, Company B, commanded by Lieutenant Pierce; Company C, by Lieutenant Grummons; Company E, by Lieutenant Knight; Company G, by Captain Devereux; Company H, Lieutenant Misener; Company I, Captain Swan, 186 strong, to the ferry and immediately proceeded to railroad depot, where, by direction of the colonel, we embarked on cars, and at 9 P. M. left for Devall's Bluff. We reached the bluff at 4 o'clock next morning, and forthwith embarked on steamer Dove, and at 7 o'clock, together with a small force of the Eighth Missouri Cavalry, proceeded up White river, reaching Gregory's Landing (which is ten miles above Little Red and 100 above Devall's Bluff) about 8 P. M., when we disembarked and marched to the support of the cavalry toward Cache river, crossing where it was supposed McRae was camped. After marching three miles in the darkness and rain it was ascertained that McRae had left that country and gone toward Jacksonport. Upon getting this information we immediately returned to the boat and proceeded up the river to Augusta, where we arrived at 5:30 A. M., April 1, disembarked, and pushed without delay with 160 men all told into the country on the Jacksonport road, the cavalry in advance. My orders were to keep within supporting distance, which I did. At the crossing of the Cache river road, four miles from Augusta, I came up with the cavalry, which had been skirmishing with the enemy for the last two miles, and here found them in force. The colonel ordered me to take three companies into the woods and engage them. I took Companies E, H, and I, and drove them before me about one mile and across a large cypress swamp. I afterward learned from a prisoner that the force I drove was the notorious Rutherford with about 150 men. At this time we joined the rest of the force, which came another route. The cavalry advanced and I followed, crossing the swamp and proceeding toward Jacksonport, the cavalry doing the skirmishing. We marched on to the Methodist church near Dr. Westmoreland's house, twelve miles from Augusta, where, by the colonel's orders, I halted my command while the cavalry scouted in advance. Finding no force of the enemy, they returned, and after a short rest started back to the boat. We had moved back about two and a half miles and halted to rest at Fitzhugh's farm-house, when we discovered a large force of mounted men charging down upon us on our right and rear. I immediately formed, and by Colonel Andrews' orders sent two companies to engage the enemy—Captain Swan, Company I, those in the road, and Lieutenant Misener, Company H, those on the right. They charged down through the open field with loud yells. I let them approach within 150 yards, then sent a volley of minie-balls into them, which caused them to cease their yelling and break to the rear for the woods with headlong speed. I followed a

short distance and discovered we had inflicted a severe loss on them, and returned. Our cavalry having pushed on in advance, we did not follow up. Finding the enemy not disposed to come out of the woods, we marched on about two and a half miles to Fitzhugh's woods, when the enemy was again heard shooting and yelling and seen coming down through an old cornfield on the same flank as before. I immediately fixed bayonets and charged on at double-quick to meet him, coming up in line at about 200 yards from his force, which was, I should judge, at least 300 strong, and gave him a volley before he opened. He immediately broke to the rear for the thick timber. At this instant, when we gave a shout to see the enemy broken, we were attacked by another and still larger force from the road we had just come up. The troops were immediately faced about and charged down into the woods in the face of a deadly fire from the enemy. While leading this charge the colonel's horse was killed under him. After gaining the heavy timber, we engaged the enemy as skirmishers in a combat which lasted two and a half hours, when I discovered that we were getting short of ammunition. I reported the fact to Colonel Andrews, who ordered me to withdraw gradually from the timber and occupy some farm buildings up the road toward Augusta and protect the crossing of the cypress, about two and a half miles farther on, which was successfully accomplished. The cavalry passed through the swamp, the infantry following. We then formed on the opposite side and marched to Augusta, six miles, without further annoyance, bringing some thirty prisoners and a large number of contrabands which had been picked up during the day.

The following embraces a full list of casualties in the regiment at the combat of Fitzhugh's Woods: The loss of the enemy, as near as could be ascertained, was upward of 100, four times our own. Of these, several were known to be officers.

I am very proud to say that every man was perfectly cool during the entire engagement, and many instances of great daring and bravery occurred which are worthy of being particularly mentioned. Hardly a man escaped without some bullet mark through his clothing. I am especially obliged to Lieutenant Champlin, acting adjutant, and Sergeant Major Ackers, Quartermaster Sergt. H. D. Pettibone, and First Sergt. C. D. Bevans (who, I lament to say, was killed); also, First Sergt. James M. Moran, Company H, and, in short, to all the officers and men of the regiment, for their promptitude in obeying orders.

Very respectfully, your obedient,

E. W. FOSTER,

Major, Commanding Third Minnesota Volunteers.

Capt. JOHN PEETZ,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Little Rock.

Confederate Loss in Battle of Fitzhugh's Woods.

Statement of R. I. Holcombe.

Gen. HERMANN MUEHLBERG,

Adjutant General of Minnesota,

SIR: In November last (1895) I visited the State of Arkansas and spent two weeks in the northern and northeastern portion of that state, in the counties of

White, Jackson, Woodruff and Independence, through and along the borders of which counties runs the White River. While in Woodruff County, at and near Augusta, the county seat, I visited the scene of the battle of Fitzhugh's Woods, an action fought April 1st, 1864, between detachments of six companies of the Third Minnesota Infantry Volunteers and a company of the Eighth Missouri Cavalry, the whole under the command of Colonel C. C. Andrews, of the Third Minnesota, and a superior force of Confederates, commanded by Brigadier-General Dandridge McRae.

While some of the main facts of this engagement are of record and generally known, it is perhaps proper to state that the Confederate version is not well known. No Confederate report of the affair was ever made, and therefore none has been published. From written and verbal statements made to me by General McRae and others, I have learned that the force of Confederates present and participating in the action at Fitzhugh's Woods consisted of at least six hundred mounted men, the greater part well armed with Enfield rifles, carbines, shotguns and dragoon pistols. At least three-fourths of the men were veterans in the service and the commander was an experienced and skillful officer. Two distinct and protracted assaults were made upon the Federal command, and met and resisted so gallantly and stubbornly as not only to repel them completely and finally, but to win the fullest recognition and admiration of the Confederates.

The principal object of the attack was to compel the surrender of the Federal command, but the effort, though persistently and bravely made, wholly failed. The records show that on many another occasion similar attacks upon isolated detachments of our troops were successful in effecting their capture, and no more signal instance of what may be accomplished by intelligent management and heroic conduct can be shown than the instance of the conduct of our troops in the action of Fitzhugh's Woods.

From the statements of General McRae, Major George W. Rutherford, Captain S. J. McGuffin, Orderly Sergeant Theodore Maxfield, Private Thomas Williams and Private James Perrin, formerly of the Confederate service, each of whom participated in the action, and from R. K. Fitzhugh, Ed. Roddy, Chas. Strother, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Mary Ramsaur and others, citizens of Woodruff County, residing near the site of the battle ground, all speaking from personal knowledge and well grounded belief, I conclude that the loss of the Confederates in the action referred to was from twenty to twenty-five killed and mortally wounded and from sixty to seventy-five severely wounded; also, about twenty horses were killed.

Major Rutherford's battalion was composed of Rutherford's company, under Lieutenant David Morgan, Captain John Bland's company, Captain Samuel J.

McGuffin's company, and ——— Reynolds' company, all veteran troops except Captain McGuffin's company, which was partly boys. One of the field officers of Colonel Freeman's regiment was Major Van Shaver. Two companies of the regiment were commanded by men named Cook. The company of Captain Ben. Tracy (a Missourian) was a good one and took a prominent part in the action. It was Freeman's battalion that made the charge through the cornfield.

The Confederate wounded were carried a considerable distance to Crowley's Ridge, to be in a safe place, and among them Colonel Freeman, Major Van Shaver, Captain Sam J. McGuffin, Lieutenant Simmons and Lieutenant Garner. McGuffin states that where he was there were a large cotton gin and barn occupied as hospitals, and accommodating about thirty, and that there were other wounded in the action at other places in the vicinity. He was taken from the battlefield to the hospital in the same wagon with Colonel Freeman. Orderly Sergeant Maxfield (of Rutherford's company) states that his company was fourteen less after the fight than before.

Nine of Colonel Freeman's men were buried in the Roddy cemetery (on the Roddy farm), about two miles from the battlefield, taken from Fitzhugh's house by Charley Strother, colored, and Tom Easton, colored. These men were clear in their recollection, and are vouched for in their community for veracity. There were three supposed to be of Freeman's command buried near White Church, and afterward removed by friends to Missouri. Several more Confederates were buried in the vicinity of White Church by Confederate soldiers the night of the fight. Captain John Bland and two other Confederates were buried in the Augusta cemetery.

Further particulars of the action at Fitzhugh's Woods may be found in the proper place in Volumes 1 and 2 of "Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars."

With the thought that this statement may be worthy a place among the files of your office for future reference, the same is respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully, &c.,

R. I. HOLCOMBE.

ST. PAUL, *Jan. 28, 1896.*

CONFEDERATE REPORT.

*Statement of Brigadier-General Dandridge McRae,¹ Confederate Commander of
Northeastern Arkansas.*

SEARCEY, ARK., Nov. 12, 1895.

When the Federal General Steele advanced upon Little Rock in September, 1863, I was in command of an infantry brigade of Arkansas troops in the Confederate States service at that point. Upon the capture of Little Rock by the Federals, they obtained possession of the Arkansas River valley, together with all of that portion of the state lying north of that river. This fact was fully understood by the rank and file of the Arkansas troops, a large proportion of whom resided in that part of the state. They had anticipated that General Holmes would make a stand at Little Rock and make an effort to retain possession of that place, and in such anticipation the ranks of the Arkansas regiments were unusually full.

When the order to retreat was made, and the army learned that the country in which were their families was to be given up without an effort to retain it, it produced intense indignation, resulting in great demoralization, and the men in great numbers abandoned their colors and returned home. Comparatively few deserted to the Federals. Three of my regiments had been recruited in north Arkansas, and from the above cause my loss was great, much greater than it would have been had a battle been fought.

General Holmes retreated to Arkadelphia, where he halted his command. Reporting to him my losses, and that the men had not deserted to the enemy but had returned home, he directed me to consolidate the companies and regiments of my command, and with the supernumerary officers left without a command, by reason of such consolidation, to proceed to northeast Arkansas, and to assume command over that portion of the state lying between White and Mississippi rivers, and collect and return to their commands all absentees found in that section.

In obedience to this assignment to duty, I proceeded at once to the designated point, accompanied with forty-six commissioned officers grading from Colonel to Second Lieutenant. Upon my arrival I found that the district I was to com-

¹ General Dandridge McRae was born in Baldwin county, Alabama; was educated at the State University of South Carolina, from which he graduated in 1849. The same year he settled at Searcey, Arkansas. He was a lawyer, and was married Jan. 10, 1855, to Miss Angie Lewis, a native of Mississippi. He died at Searcey April 23, 1899.

mand was entirely cut off from the Confederate armies by Federal garrisons stationed along the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers, and the whole district in a complete state of demoralization, infested with bands of guerrillas, jayhawkers and cotton speculators. The first thing to do was to collect an organized force which would enable me to enforce my orders. The officers I brought with me were at once sent out with instructions to collect all absentees found, and to organize them into companies as rapidly as possible. This was slow work, but by the end of the year I had succeeded in gathering a respectable force. But as I had to live on the country, and there were Federal posts on every side which required to be guarded against, my command was separated into detachments.

In March, 1864, my headquarters were at what is known as Gage's Point, in Woodruff County, about twelve miles below Augusta and about three miles from White River. Shortly before the Federals had established a post at Jacksonport, about thirty-five miles north of where my headquarters were. It was all-important to drive them from that position; otherwise I would be compelled to give up Woodruff and Jackson counties, whence I drew my principal supplies of food and forage.

So about the first of April, 1864, the date not remembered, I concentrated the forces nearest, consisting of Colonel Thomas W. Freeman's regiment, about four hundred men; Captain George Rutherford's company, about sixty men; Captain Sam McGuffin's company, about thirty men; Captain John Bland's company, about thirty-five men; Captain Tracy's company, about fifty men, and Captain Reynolds', about twenty men—about five hundred and forty-five men—for the purpose of making an attack upon the Federal force stationed at Jacksonport. Just as the command was starting, my picket stationed upon an approach to my camp from White River, at what is known as Peach Orchard Bluff, brought in a Federal spy. He was a man with whom I had been acquainted for many years, who resided in the vicinity of the Peach Orchard Bluff. He was one of the few persons acquainted with the approach, for it was not even a path, upon which he was arrested. It ran through a swamp densely set with cane. It was a dangerous approach to leave open, for a force could come up White River from Devall's Bluff, land at Peach Orchard Bluff, and be within five miles of my headquarters. Having learned this route in my hunting days, I had gone in person and placed the picket which resulted in the capture of the spy. I turned him over to Captain Bland, with orders to guard him securely until my return.

We moved on to Jacksonport; but the Federals retreated across Black River, which I was unable to cross, it being a deep stream.

Finding that I would be unable to attack the Federal force, I ordered the various commands to march to a mill some seven miles northeast of Augusta.

Freeman's regiment and the other commands, except Rutherford's, marched at once. Rutherford had a sister residing near Jacksonport, and remained a short time visiting her. With a portion of my staff and six or eight men as an escort, I followed the command (except Rutherford's command) until I reached the neighborhood of the White Church, ten miles north of Augusta, when I turned off the road and remained all night with an acquaintance.

Immediately after breakfast a courier from Rutherford (who had passed down ahead of me) dashed up and reported that a column of Federal cavalry and infantry was advancing up the road leading to Augusta. I immediately hurried to get up with Rutherford, who I supposed was in the road in advance of me. After passing through a long lane at the Antony farm, just in the edge of the woods there is a stream, at which we halted to water our horses. Just ahead in the woods I saw soldiers moving about, which I supposed were Rutherford's, as many of my people wore Federal overcoats. A lieutenant of cavalry who had served in the cavalry since 1861 said, "General, they are Federals." I replied that it was impossible, as Rutherford was ahead and would notify me. He said he had seen them and they had seen him too often to be fooled, and that they were Federals. About that time they fired on us. There were about a dozen in my party. There was no retreat for us except back through the long lane, enclosed on each side with high rail fences. Along this lane was a long, almost impassable mudhole, and if we were pursued there would be little chance of escape. After retreating some four or five hundred yards, finding we were not pursued, the fence was let down on the east side—the right as the Federals were advancing. I was at a loss to know where my command was. Members of my staff and orderlies were sent in all directions to find either Freeman or Rutherford. An hour or more was spent in a vain search for either. After some time I started to the point of rendezvous at the mill, so as to meet with Freeman. The earth seemed to have swallowed Rutherford. I had not proceeded far before I heard firing, and at once started in the direction of the sound, and came up with Freeman's command, who had attacked the Federals in the Fitzhugh Woods. Bland's company acted with Freeman's in the attack. Freeman had attacked with his force mounted and had been repulsed. I directed him to dismount his men and attack with his force dismounted, which he did, and the Federals fell back to the Golightly place. Here Captain Tracy charged with his company mounted, and was repulsed with considerable loss. At this time Rutherford attacked on our right. The Federals rallied around the negro cabins, but were driven out. But they yielded slowly, fighting stubbornly. About this time our ammunition was expended, and I directed Rutherford to take such part of my force as were armed with pistols, mount his men and charge the Federals, who were then retreating, but they manifested such sturdi-

ness and delivered such a heavy fire that he was unable to accomplish anything, being entirely out of ammunition. I was unable to do more than slowly follow until the force returned to Augusta, embarked aboard their steamers, and left.

What I was anxious to do was to reach Augusta and their boats before the Federals and thus cut them off; but there was not a round of ammunition to the men left.

I never saw sturdier troops than the Third Minnesota showed themselves in this action, and they were skillfully handled. I was much impressed with the gallantry of one of their mounted officers, who, under the severest fire, rode along the line of his men steadying and encouraging them. In the lapse of time, and from the misfortune of having all my books and papers burned, I am unable to state what my loss was. I recollect Colonel Freeman, Major Shaver, Lieutenants Gower and Simmons wounded, and Captain John Bland and Lieutenant Love killed. My impression is now that my loss was considerable more than the Federal loss.

After the engagement the various commands returned to their respective camps.

During the engagement at Fitzhugh's Woods and at the Golightly place Colonel Thomas McCray, who had been sent up into my district with instructions to me, with an escort of about two hundred men, well armed and equipped, were within one mile of the battlefield; but their presence at that point was unknown to either the Federals or myself.

Two days after the fight I turned my command over to Colonel McCray and went South to the main army.

D. McRAE.

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT SEVENTH ARMY CORPS,
DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., *March 30, 1864.*

Col. C. C. ANDREWS,
Commanding Expedition,

COLONEL: The general commanding directs that you take such troops as were agreed upon between him and you, and proceed upon the expedition of which you

have received particular instructions from him. Col. W. F. Geiger, commanding Eighth Missouri Cavalry and post at Devall's Bluff, is directed to furnish you with a force of cavalry, say fifty to 100, upon your application to him for them.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. MASON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT SEVENTH ARMY CORPS,
DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., *March 30, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. F. STEELE,
Commanding Department,

GENERAL: Since writing yesterday I find that the messenger has returned. A squad will go with Lieutenant Faber, the bearer of this. From information received I learn that McRae is collecting a force with the intention of attempting a raid on our railroad. To check him I have organized a force under Col. C. C. Andrews, consisting of Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and about 100 cavalry of Eighth Missouri. The colonel, with this force, will leave here to-night and go to Devall's Bluff by rail, thence to Augusta by steamer, and endeavor to capture McRae and his force or disperse them. * * *

NATHAN KIMBALL,
Brigadier General, Commanding.

Capt. E. D. MASON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

DEVALL'S BLUFF, ARK., *March 31, 1864.*

Arrived here at 4 o'clock; will soon be off.

C. C. ANDREWS,
Colonel.

Capt. E. D. MASON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

DEVALL'S BLUFF, ARK., *March 31, 1864.*

Left on steamer Dove 6:15 o'clock. Had to wait for cavalry.

C. C. ANDREWS,
Colonel.

EXTRACT FROM COMMUNICATION OF COL. R. R. LIVINGSTON, COMMANDING,
BATESVILLE, ARK.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF NORTHEASTERN ARKANSAS,
BATESVILLE, ARK., *April 16, 1864.*

Capt. E. D. MASON,

A. A. G., Seventh A. C. and Dept. of Ark., Little Rock, Ark.,

SIR: * * * I will send 600 men to Augusta, to be there 25th instant, when, if the lieutenant commanding will co-operate with me by sending a force, we will compel the enemy to remove his headquarters to the interior swamps

west of ridge. I do not believe the reports of 2,000 of the enemy being with McRae; he has about 1,200 soldiers, 200 of whom he has to keep out scouting for subsistence. He could raise 2,000 armed men by pressing citizens, but that will only make the slaughter worse for him. My men will fight, rest assured of that, and I predict that McRae's glory departs from him as soon as I set foot on the other side of the river.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. LIVINGSTON,
Colonel, First Regiment Nebraska Cavalry, Commanding.

EXPEDITION UP WHITE RIVER, ARK.—April 19-24, 1864.

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT SEVENTH ARMY CORPS,
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., *April 19, 1864.*

Col. W. F. GEIGER,
Commanding, Devall's Bluff,

COLONEL: Col. C. C. Andrews, Third Minnesota, goes in command of the expedition up White river. You will please furnish him 100 mounted men, or such number less as you and he may agree upon. You will confer with Colonel Andrews, as he is instructed in every particular as to the plan of operations, and I do hope that you may be successful in breaking up McRae's entire band of robbers. I desire that your cavalry move by way of Clarendon to Cotton Plant, and thence form a junction with Colonel Andrews. I leave the entire plan to Colonel Andrews and yourself.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NATHAN KIMBALL,
Brigadier General, Commanding.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., *April 19, 1864.*

Colonel GEIGER,
Commanding, Devall's Bluff, Ark.:

The infantry force will be over to-night; they leave within one hour, under Colonel Andrews, 900 strong. Be ready. Colonel Andrews will give you all the information required.

NATHAN KIMBALL,
Brigadier General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS EXPEDITION UP WHITE RIVER,
AUGUSTA, ARK., THURSDAY NOON, *April 21, 1864.*

Colonel LIVINGSTON,
Commanding Forces at Jacksonport,

COLONEL: I am here with two veteran infantry regiments, Third Minnesota and Sixty-first Illinois, and a part of Eighth Missouri Cavalry. About 300 of Eighth Missouri Cavalry were to be at Cotton Plant this morning. I have sent a part of my force to form a junction with them, and hope for its return here at about 4 this P. M.

